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## Peres warns Hizbullah, but says time not ripe for retaliation

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

HIZBULLAH will be punished for its attacks on IDF troops, but now is not the opportune moment, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday.

"We do not usually launch operations when there is an air of expectancy. When the news media are in the North and the terrorists' homes are empty, it's not exactly an invitation to an operation," Peres said.

Speaking to reporters during a visit to Tel Nof Air Base, Peres acknowledged the air force had been restricted from massive retaliation due to political considerations. He said he was unable to authorize a strike during last week's visit by US President Bill Clinton and the international conference on terrorism at Sharm e-Sheikh.

He said Israel's retaliation was also dependent on the weather, troop concentrations and intelligence, but warned Hizbullah that Israel had never changed its policy of retaliation. "He who tries to harm Israel will be punished, and very quickly," Peres said.

"We have to negotiate not with arms, but with ideas. And we have to defend ourselves with arms because ideas are not sufficient. As long as we don't have a military solution we have the right and the need to take all the means and measures to defend the lives of people on both sides of the frontier," Peres said.

Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr meanwhile accused the media of exaggerating the tension in the North. He was also satisfied to hear Hizbullah leaders had fled deeper into Lebanon. "It is clear that they will return, and it is certainly clear that the IDF will prepare an appropriate reception when they do," Orr said.

Orr made the comments during a visit yesterday at Beit Gavriel on the shores of Lake Kinneret where he met with the Jordanian Deputy Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Tahsin Shouroum.

David Rudge adds: IDF and South Lebanese Army troops remained on high alert inside the security zone and along the northern border yesterday, despite a marked drop in attacks. Only two minor exchanges of fire, with no casualties, were reported yesterday.

Lebanese radio stations also reported extensive flights by IAF warplanes and helicopter gunships over parts of south Lebanon yesterday, although there were no reports of any raids.

Lebanese government officials have asked Egypt and the US to intervene and prevent Israel from carrying out any major operation.

David Makovsky adds: The US continues to talk with Syria and Israel to ensure both sides exercise maximum restraint in southern Lebanon.

US Ambassador Martin Indyk phoned Peres last night, reporting to him on US efforts with Syria to ensure that calm pervades in southern Lebanon. US diplomatic sources emphatically denied a television report last night that Indyk sought to prevent Peres from taking military action in southern Lebanon Monday night.



The leaders of the new right-wing bloc share the stage yesterday (from left): Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, Geshar's David Levy, and Tsomet's Rafael Eitan. At far right is Lod Mayor Maxim Levy. (Akin Ron/Israel Sun)

## Netanyahu: Elections are referendum for peace

SARAH HONG

LIKUD Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu told his party's central committee members last night that "the upcoming elections are a referendum on peace... on whether we shall strive for peace with security or seek to make peace at the expense of security and, without security, end up with no peace, either."

Netanyahu maintained that "the Labor government had a chance to bring peace and we see the sort of peace it is. At each bus stop in Jerusalem we see two soldiers equipped with helmets, automatic weapons, and communications equipment and they stand there looking for peace."

"Perhaps it would come from behind or from the side... Car drivers avoid buses. I went to the mall to get a Purim costume for my son and was told it's not safe. Is this peace?... We yearn for a peace of which we won't be afraid. Peace

is when girls from Tel Mond can go out for a day of fun in Tel Aviv without it being their last day, and when costumed boys can peacefully celebrate Purim in Dizengoff, and when passengers can get on a bus in the Katamonim and reach the central terminal in one piece."

Netanyahu noted that "during the 12 1/2 years preceding the September 1993 Oslo accords, Israel suffered 214 deaths due to terror, the intifada and the Scuds. In the two-and-a-half years since Oslo there were 214 dead in terrorist outrages. The Oslo concept is what failed."

"Yasser Arafat cannot and does not want to protect us. We must put our defense back in our own hands and give our security forces the freedom to hit where and when they deem right... This will have a deterrent effect."

He said the government he will form "on May 30 will talk to the Palestinians and offer them a fair arrangement. They will run their own lives. They deserve this... But we will be the ones who will defend ourselves... Peace with the Arabs begins with security for the Jews... I know Labor is spreading the same scare propaganda as it did in 1977 when it warned that Menachem Begin would start a war. Begin protested against the notion that there are good Jews who want peace and bad Jews who don't. The same is true now."

In his own speech to the committee, MK Benny Begin offered to resign from the Knesset and not seek another term if his claim that Arafat and the Hamas have an understanding whereby Hamas may launch terror attacks against Israelis so long as this is not perpetrated in territories under PA control is disproven.

## Israel preparing list of deportees

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

ISRAEL is preparing a list of Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists who are to be deported once all the legal barriers have been overcome, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday.

"We are investigating what measures are best in order to prevent repetition of another act of suicidal terror," Peres said during a tour of the Tel Nof air base.

"The list [of candidates] will become known once we go through the military and legal checks," he said.

"Whatever we do, we do within the framework of Israeli law or the law which exists in the territories," Peres added.

A senior official said the number of candidates was "not many," but included male family

members of suicide bombers.

Security officials have pushed for deportations, and on Sunday Peres told the cabinet he felt deporting Palestinians linked to suicide bombers and blowing up the houses of families of suicide bombers were strong deterrents to terror.

As foreign minister, Peres did not oppose the deportation of 415 Hamas activists to Lebanon in 1992. That move brought worldwide condemnation on Israel and did little to harm Hamas.

Asked to where Israel planned to deport the Islamic militants, Peres said: "An interesting question. We should contemplate it."

Israel Radio said dozens of Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists, some rounded up in the recent sweep, others already in jail, were on the list to be expelled. It also reportedly included the two brothers of Yehiye "The Engineer" Ayyash - as an attempt to bury the Ayyash myth.

Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr said the government had already decided in principle to deport militants.

"The legal system will check and if it is possible, it [the deportation] will be carried out," Orr said on Army Radio.

Speaking to reporters, Peres said the closure was imposed for security considerations and was

not intended to "starve people or harm the innocent." He said Israel would take all the steps needed to ease the pressures on the Palestinians in Judea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip as long as it did not compromise Israel's security.

"This closure is not punishment. This closure is a security measure," Peres said.

Yesterday the IDF continued its sweep of Islamic militants and arrested seven more suspects. It also rounded up 38 men in Abu Dis and Eizariya for questioning. They were later released, the army said.

The army also lifted its ban on Israelis traveling to Jericho, Tulkarm, Kalkilya, Jenin and Nablus.

## Panel okays building plans for Har Homa

BILL HUTMAN

THE Jerusalem District Planning Committee yesterday approved the controversial plan to build a new Jewish neighborhood at Har Homa in south Jerusalem, on land annexed to the city after the Six Day War.

Construction at the site now awaits Interior Minister Haim Ramon's approval. Ramon has told associates recently that he will give the go-ahead for the project, despite sharp opposition from the Palestinian Authority.

Ramon and Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Yossi Beilin had told Peace Now in December that they would try to delay the plan, but reversed their decision after the Likud made Jerusalem a major issue in the upcoming election, charged Peace Now activist Mossi Raz. Peace Now called on Ramon

not to sign the plan on the grounds that the move "will hurt the peace process" and represents "discrimination against Palestinians and preference for Jews in all that is related to building in Jerusalem."

Most of the land at Har Homa was owned by Jews, although the site borders several Arab villages whose residents claim the land. The new homes to be built at the site are earmarked for Jews, according to Jerusalem municipal planners.

The Har Homa neighborhood has been in the planning stage for years, but was held up by both opposition by the Jewish and Arab land owners and international pressure against building a Jewish neighborhood in areas annexed to Jerusalem in 1967.

Jerusalem sovereignty, Page 2

## US planning follow-up to anti-terrorism summit

DAVID MAKOVSKY

ISRAEL received tentative notification yesterday that the US will seek to convene a follow-up meeting on April 14 in Washington of the foreign ministers from 29 countries who attended the Sharm e-Sheikh anti-terrorism conference last week, Foreign Ministry officials said.

According to the conference's concluding document, a "working group" is charged with "preparing recommendations" and reporting back to the plenary within 30 days. Officials at the working level, including anti-terrorism experts, will begin meeting in Washington on March 28.

Robert Satloff, executive director of the Washington Insti-

tute for Near East Policy, said the document provided a forceful basis upon which to build a genuine anti-terror campaign. Apart from condemning terror unconditionally and singling out Israel as a country facing terrorism, he said the document marks the first time that such a wide array of Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, "publicly vowed to 'work together' with Israel to serve mutual security interests."

Furthermore, Satloff noted, by vowing that "instigators of [terrorism] are brought to justice," the document sends a "powerful message that incitement of terror is itself a criminal act, on par with recruiting, arming, and funding the terrorists themselves."

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## Mubarak urges Israel to lift closure

ASWAN (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has urged Israel to lift the three-week-old closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a senior aide to Mubarak said yesterday. Mubarak, a mediator between Israel and the Palestinians, made the appeal in a letter to Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Peres replied, but the aide, Osama Baz, refused to give details. Life under closure, Page 2

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## Likud okays pact with Geshar, Tsomet

SARAH HONG

A NEW right-wing electoral bloc was born yesterday after an enthusiastic Likud central committee overwhelmingly approved the joint ticket with Tsomet and Geshar.

The vote took place amid great excitement, with Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu escorting his new partners Rafael Eitan and David Levy through the rapturous throng to the podium.

It was a central committee session unlike any the Likud has ever known, with no disarray or acrimony.

The only jarring note was sounded by MK Ze'ev Begin in a powerful attack on the deals with Tsomet and especially with Levy. Begin called the agreements "a prize for disloyalty" and doubted they would improve the Likud's electoral prospects. But Begin, who voted against the union, was obviously out of tune with the vast majority of the 3,600 central committee members who were in a clearly elated, celebratory mood.

The auditorium at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds took on a carnival-like atmosphere in the afternoon when the delegates began to assemble and hundreds of primary candidates engaged in energetic campaigning replete with buttons, posters, flags, pins and flowers. Inside, the hall was decked in blue and white and a huge banner reading, "Peace with the Likud."

Thousands of balloons floated up at the ceiling and each arrival was given a carnation and a sticker saying "The Likud - electoral upheaval 1996."

The stage was crowded with the leading party figures, including former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, political matchmaker Ariel Sharon, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, and MKs Tzahi Hanegbi, Uzi Landau, Begin, Moshe Katsav, and Yehoshua Matza.

Netanyahu sought to dissuade Begin from attacking the agreement earlier yesterday, but to no avail.

"It is regrettable that those who abandon comrades, ideas and frameworks are rewarded, while those who stay loyal are shunted aside. This is not only a bad example but exacts a price in real terms... no one likes to be a sucker... we are forming a trade union of 14 to 16 MKs who could hold us to ransom. We are handcuffing ourselves," Begin said.

Begin reserved his sharpest barbs for Levy's "movement with a social message but no mileage."

"The man who waves the banner of social reform demands the foreign affairs portfolio. This will no doubt mean care for the elderly in Kazakhstan, improvement in the health services of Sumatra and the eradication of the drug problems of Patagonia. Geshar's new social tidings will thus even reach far away Fiji to glorify the name of Israel," Begin said.

Begin was answered by Sharon, who said he initiated the union "following the cynical exploitation by Labor of the Rabin assassination, despite their unequivocal knowledge that the national camp had nothing to do with the reprehensible crime."

"I realized this was a dangerous emergency situation in which all personal issues had to be set aside. The entire national camp had to unite behind Netanyahu, a clear platform had to be put together and we have to make our presence felt on the street... unafraid of threats and attempts to muzzle us."

When Netanyahu took the rostrum, the audience rose to its feet, climbed on the seats and welcomed him with tumultuous applause to the sounds of the 1992 Likud election jingle.

Though he shook Begin's hand after Begin's carping speech, Netanyahu also answered him. "We must learn from past experience and erect one giant tent for the entire national camp... there is a price, and it is difficult for me, too, but the price pales in comparison to what this failing government's policy costs the citizens of this country."

At this point, Eitan and Levy, who were waiting in a side room, made their way into the auditorium, embraced along the way by the crowds which often seemed close to crushing them. With the jingle playing in the background, Netanyahu left the rostrum to shake their hands and escort them.

All three were beaming broadly and Netanyahu declared that "it wasn't easy for David and I to get over the past. But we know what really matters and we shall go forward with friendship and unity to bring this nation the tidings of hope, of peace with security."

Nearly the entire committee membership raised their yellow cards in favor of the joint ticket.

The blue and white balloons then descended on the audience, flowers were handed to the three leaders and the audience joined in a thunderous rendition of "Hevenn Shalom Aleichem."

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# Sarid: Haifa Chemicals can't discharge effluent into bay

ENVIRONMENT Minister Yossi Sarid yesterday rejected plans by the Haifa Chemicals plant to discharge toxic effluent via a pipeline from the factory directly into the Haifa Bay.

Instead, he told the management of the company, which employs over 550 people, to present new proposals for treating the effluent on land.

Sarid could in principle order the plant, which exported \$220 million worth of fertilizer products last year, to be shut down for not complying with environmental pollution laws.

In practice, however, he decided yesterday to give the firm more time to research the problem and find a suitable alternative that would keep it

open and solve the pollution problem.

The Haifa Chemicals spokesman said the firm had pledged to take all necessary measures to ensure that effluent disposal would meet even the strictest environmental regulations.

"The chairman of the board, Arie Genger, has pledged to sub-

mit to a committee of experts appointed by the minister a technological land-based solution to the problem in the framework of a timetable that is to be agreed upon between the ministry and the company," said the spokesman.

Part of this solution is likely to

involve the establishment of a \$2 million nitrates treatment unit at the factory complex.

In the meantime, however, the toxic effluent will continue to flow untreated into the Kishon River.

Sarid's decision not to accept the pipeline to the sea plan was warmly welcomed by environmentalists, led by Greenpeace

and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, as well as the fishermen's union.

"This decision sets a positive precedent and puts Israel among the world's leading countries concerned with the protection of the environment, including the sea," SPNI spokeswoman Orit Nevo said.

"We don't want anybody to

lose their jobs at the factory, nor do we want fishermen to lose their livelihoods because the sea has become polluted.

"We hope that a solution can be found, but if not then the company should perhaps switch to the manufacture of different products which don't create such toxic effluent and waste," she added.



Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair congratulates his daughter, Dana, at the ceremony in which she received her Tel Aviv University law degree yesterday. (Ailon Roa/Israel Sun)

## 'Religious fervor isn't main motivation of bombers'

DESPITE the apparent religious fanaticism of the latest wave of suicide bombers, religious motivations are not the main impetus for such terror acts, according to Prof. Ariel Merari, a Tel Aviv University expert on terrorism.

Merari was speaking at a one-day national conference on public transportation security organized by the Transportation Ministry and attended by some 400 public transportation guards.

Merari, who spoke about the profile of a suicide terrorist, said that it is possible to construct two such profiles: a demographic profile based on the suicide attacker's probable age, sex, family status, place of residence,

education, and economic situation; and the psychological profile outlining the terrorist's character, motivations, personal development, and personal norms.

Although there are notable exceptions, it is relatively easy to describe the suicide attacker's demographic profile, he said. The psychological profile is far more difficult to evaluate. However, he added, it is possible to draw certain conclusions, and one is the surprisingly low importance of religion.

"[The suicide attackers] had some other reason they wanted to die. Two-thirds of the suicide car

bombers in Lebanon were not Shi'ites," Merari said.

Merari said that an analysis of the factors influencing the suicide terrorist showed that the most important factor was the desire to commit suicide for personal reasons, not religious influences or ideological fanaticism.

In contrast with the accepted view, he said, they were people who wanted to kill themselves for purely personal motives and found a suitable framework for doing so within a terror organization.

Merari said that terror organizations which execute suicide attacks actively seek out and enlist such people.

## Dead prisoner's brother petitions decision not to press indictments against GSS

THE brother of Abed el-Samad Harizat, who died last year as the result of being shaken during a General Security Service interrogation, yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair's decision not to indict those responsible.

An investigation into the death found that several interrogators had shaken Harizat by holding the front of his shirt, which is in line with GSS regulations. One, however, shook him by the shoulders, which is against the regulations. Disciplinary charges were filed against this interrogator.

However, Ben-Yair decided not to file criminal charges against

any of the GSS agents, for two reasons.

First, while pathological reports said the death most probably resulted from Harizat's having been shaken by the shoulders, this was not definite.

His brain hemorrhage could also have been caused by one of the other shakings, or by the cumulative effect of all of them.

In his petition, Abdallah Harizat argued that the first reason was invalid, because Israeli law states that all participants in a crime can be tried for that crime as a unit, even if their degree of participation in the crime was different.

Ben-Yair's reluctance to try the agents, the petition charged, is due to the fact that all but one were following standard GSS procedure.

Regarding the second reason, the petition charged that while shaking may never have caused death during a GSS investigation before, it has caused severe physical damage, so the agents should have been aware of the risks they were taking.

The petition said these risks could not be justified by the "ticking bomb" defense, even though Harizat was a Hamas member, and was being investigated for his possible knowledge of future attacks planned by the organization.

## Program will allow pupils to take one matriculation exam

**BATSHEVA TSUR**

HIGH school pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds will be allowed to take only one matriculation exam, and will not be forced to sit for them all, Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein announced yesterday.

Some 100 pupils have already signed up for the program, called "Bagrut 1." Rubinstein said during a visit to the Ort Singalovsky Technical College in Tel Aviv.

Among the participants are youngsters who have dropped out of high school, he said.

The program is designed to give pupils, who do not plan to obtain a matriculation certificate, the chance to improve their self-image and to help them to adapt better in the army and at their jobs, Rubinstein said.

Some 47% of the pupils at Ort schools throughout the country will take the matriculation exams this year, compared with 39% last year. Ort national director Yisrael Goralnik said. At Ort Singalovsky 94% of the 12th graders will be doing the exams, he said.

The minister inaugurated a center for helping pupils with learning disabilities at the school.

## East Jerusalem man gets 12 years for causing Ben Shemen accident

SHAHEEN Amru, 25, of east Jerusalem was sentenced to 12 years in jail and had his license permanently revoked by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday. He was convicted of manslaughter for causing 10 deaths on October 24, 1995, on the Ben Shemen Jerusalem road.

The sentence was the toughest ever handed down to an individual convicted of a traffic offense.

Amru fell asleep while driving a truck and subsequently crossed into the opposite lane, causing a crash that killed 10 people. He was convicted of driving with total disregard for the road conditions or the possible danger he might be causing.

He was convicted as part of a plea-bargain agreement in which he confessed to the crime. The original indictment included a section indicating he had been driving 14 hours straight on the two days prior to the accident, but this section was dropped as part of the plea-bargain agreement. (Tim)

## Beit She'an dig blocked by workers protesting firings

**DAVID RUDGE**

ANGRY workers burned tires and blocked the entrance to the site of the ancient Roman city in Beit She'an yesterday, defying a magistrate's court order banning them from doing so.

The demonstrators, who work on the archaeological excavations, were protesting threatened cutbacks in the work force.

Police persuaded the protesters to end the illegal demonstration, which prevented scores of tourists from entering the site.

The demonstrators dispersed, but vowed to appeal the court decision which followed a petition from the National Parks Authority, which runs the site.

Pinnie Kabalo, chairman of the Histadrut's Beit She'an branch, said more than 100 people were employed at the excavations and dozens more did contract work there.

"It started as a job creation program 12 years ago and has become one of the biggest places of employment in the area," Kabalo said.

"Now, we have been told that the Treasury is cutting funds to the Antiquities Authority and the NPA, which in turn is threatening the site with closure, or big cutbacks," he said.

Kabalo noted that many of those employed at the site have no other work options and would find themselves on the streets if the excavation was stopped.

He said the workers are demanding a long-term program that would guarantee the site's continued development.

He said they also want to meet with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

## Kessar: Insufficient funds for guards for transport

THE NIS 40 million budget for the public transport guard unit will only be enough to employ 425 of the 800 guards that were to be enlisted under the new safety plan, Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar said yesterday.

Kessar, who was speaking at a gathering of the guards in Ramat Efal, said more funds would be needed to operate the unit in 1997. He told the guards that their job was not to replace policemen but to improve the personal security of the population. (Tim)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Romanian killed in work accident**  
A Romanian worker was killed yesterday morning when he fell off scaffolding at a construction site in Lod. He was declared dead on the scene after Magen David Adom personnel tried to revive him. Police and the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry are investigating the accident. (Tim)

**IDF NCO hurt while fixing tank turret**  
A non-commissioned officer was moderately wounded Monday afternoon in the South while working on the turret of a tank, the IDF Spokesman announced. He was taken to the hospital for treatment. (Tim)

**Bungee jumping coming here**  
The country's first and only bungee jumping facility, in which participants are to jump off a bridge 50 meters over the Jordan River, is due to open on April 4.

The facility is to be operated by Atrakteva, an adventure activity center at the Hamisha Bridge, near the Gadoi-Gonen road in the upper Jordan Valley.

A group of workers from the center went to the US, where they were trained in operating the facility by the North American Bungee Association (NABA). (Haim Shapiro)

**Periodical association conference today**  
Per Mortesen of Norway, president of the International Federation of the Periodical Press (IFPP) is the guest of honor at the national conference of the 35-year-old Israel Association of the Periodical Press.

Culture and Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein is also expected to attend today's conference in Givatayim. There are some 700 local periodicals representing all sectors of the population. (Helen Kaye)

**THE LONE WOLF** A Biography of Vladimir (Ze'ev) Jabotinsky by Shmuel Katz

This is the long-awaited English version of the biography of one of the most dramatic figures of 20th century Jewish history - Ze'ev Jabotinsky, founder of Revisionism - journalist, novelist, poet, soldier, linguist and outstanding orator. Shmuel Katz has drawn on archival material, unpublished and newly translated letters, and extensive sources for this account of the center of Zionism history in the 1920's and beyond. Katz himself is known as an author and newspaper columnist; he has used newly available archival documentation in this meticulous and comprehensive biography, from Odessa, 1880 to New York, 1940. Previously published in Hebrew as JABO. Hardcover, 2 vol., 1856pp.

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TRANS BETWEEN AND STATEHOOD...

# Sarajevo reunited after four years

KURT SCHORK  
SARAJEVO

SARAJEVO, divided into warring communal ghettos four years ago almost to the day, became a united city again yesterday when Moslem-Croat authorities took control of the last district held by Serbs.

A column of police belonging to the Moslem-Croat federation drove into the downtown Grbavica quarter of the Bosnian capital which Serbs vacated on Monday, in reluctant obedience to the Bosnian peace agreement.

They found widespread destruction caused by fleeing Serbs and a population shrunk to about 1,000 to 2,000 elderly residents who chose to stay.

"Last night was very dangerous, today is like a rebirth," Abdulah Alibegovic, a 57-year-old Moslem, told reporters.

The Bosnian government has now recovered all five Serb sectors of the capital, but at the cost of heavy damage to Grbavica and Ilidza by vengeful Serb nationalists and the loss of all but 10,000 of the former Serb population.

The flight of the Serbs, spurred by headline political leaders behind the 3 1/2-year war in Bosnia, was a deliberate blow to the prospects for restoring a multi-confessional community between the country's Moslems, Croats and Serbs.

"If anyone thinks this a success, that would be rather silly," UN aid agency official Kris Janowski said. "People who wanted Sarajevo Serbs to leave have achieved 85 percent of what they wanted."

Arson and looting which NATO peacekeepers and the international police were unable to prevent caused millions of dollars worth of damage, according to Janowski. The federation police set up a



A Serb man cries as two Serbian women greet each other after entering Grbavica, a suburb of Sarajevo.

makeshift Grbavica headquarters in an abandon pizzeria after departing Serbs razed the old police station overnight. Axious to prevent a repetition of looting and intimidation of

elderly Serbs by Moslem youths when Ilidza was handed over last week, the federation allowed only a few score former Grbavica residents to enter the district yesterday. The return of the Serb suburbs

is due to be followed today by the withdrawal of 4,500 Bosnian government army troops from the center of Sarajevo, but NATO said it saw no sign that any had left. Janowski said the UN and

NATO were also having difficulty in ensuring the return of Moslem civilians to their homes in northern Bosnia despite the approval of a Serb court in Banja Luka. (Reuter)

# China castigates US over 'brazen' show of force

BEIJING (Reuter) - China blasted the United States yesterday for what it called a "brazen show of force" in the region, even as it stepped up war games aimed at cowering rival Taiwan into giving up its drive for higher international status.

China told the United States to stop immediately actions it said heightened tensions in the Taiwan Strait, namely the dispatch of US naval battle groups headed by the aircraft carriers Nimitz and Independence to waters off Taiwan.

Washington for its part warned Beijing of the high economic risks it was taking, saying its threatening tactics towards Taiwan could hinder renewal of US trade privileges worth billions of dollars annually.

Following up on missile tests which ended last Friday and a round of war games that began last Tuesday, China launched a new round of large-scale military drills in coastal areas provocatively close to Taipei-ruled islands in the narrow strait separating China

and Taiwan. China's army pounded a deserted Chinese island with artillery fire in a dawn mock battle on Tuesday to capture it, shaking local Chinese residents with the rattle of gunfire.

"We heard artillery as we ate breakfast," a farmer said by telephone from southeastern Fujian province's Pingtan island, a command post of the 'involving' the army, navy and air force.

But Taiwan's Defense Ministry said it had detected little movement of jet fighters and warships around Pingtan, which has been shrouded in fog for some days.

Chinese state media said China's current war games and those held over the last year had given "clear proof" the People's Liberation Army is now capable of fighting a modern war.

"The PLA has carried out an all-round reform of military training, which has greatly improved capabilities in weaponry, military quality and defense and fighting capabilities in modern war situations," Xinhua news agency said.

# Russia presses on with attacks in western Chechnya

MOSCOW (Reuter) - Russian troops battered rebel positions with artillery yesterday in efforts to drive separatist fighters out of western Chechnya, but faced new charges that they have attacked civilians.

Russian news agencies quoted officials at the military command in the Chechen capital Grozny as saying troops had maintained a siege of rebel strongholds in and around the western villages of Samashki, Bamut, Stary Achkhoi and Orekhovo.

Russian Martagov, press secretary for Chechnya's pro-Moscow administration, said the Russian forces had taken control of Samashki after a four-day assault. But Interfax news agency said later that the rebels still controlled

Samashki, 30 km west of Grozny. It quoted an unnamed official in the Chechen administration as saying the Russian forces were still shelling areas around the village in the late afternoon.

"The federal forces are carrying out artillery strikes on the outskirts of the village and on groups of fighters," Interfax said.

Interfax said leaders of Chechnya's recently revived pro-Moscow parliament had issued a declaration criticizing the Russian forces' conduct during the 15-month-old conflict.

The president of the regional Supreme Soviet, or parliament, accused the Russian troops of killing civilians and looting. It urged President Boris Yeltsin to do more to protect civilians.

# 150 confirmed dead in Manila disco fire

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Revelers in the packed Ozone Disco Pub saw electric sparks and smoke moments before the disco went pitch black. When they realized there was only one way out, they stampeded.

At least 150 died, charred so badly that families and loved ones sorted through jewelry, makeup kits and shoes yesterday in hopes of identifying the bodies. The heat was so intense that some bodies were fused together.

City safety engineer Alfredo Macapugay said the popular disco had been approved for use by only 35 people, but was packed with 350 customers and 40 staff when the fire broke out.

Many of the customers were young people celebrating the end of the school year. Many survivors said the fire appeared to have begun in the disc jockey's booth, but some radio reports said a fuel tank in the kitchen may have exploded.

It was the country's worst fire and the worst nightclub fire worldwide since a blaze killed 164 in Kentucky in 1977.

Firefighters worked with their bare hands to gingerly separate the burned bodies. Many were so overwhelmed by the task that they had to stop and share sips of gin.

Hours after the fire, which began shortly after midnight Monday and was extinguished about two hours later, only 16 of the dead had been identified.

The disco's original fire exit had been blocked by a new building built next door, investigators said. The cause of the fire was under investigation, but authorities said survivors saw electric sparks and the nightclub's acoustic foam insulation had ignited.

Disc jockey Marvin Reyes said he saw flames catch the hair and clothes of screaming victims.

Some of the customers were crushed by the disco's falling roof. Others rushed to escape through the only exit, a narrow front corridor, where the bodies piled up waist-deep and dozens were trampled to death.

President Fidel Ramos visited the disco, called it a "terrible tragedy" and issued orders

for inspections of entertainment facilities to ensure they observe building codes. Club and restaurant operators often find it cheaper to bribe local officials than honor building regulations, safety officials say.

Ramos said the disco's four owners would be arrested if they did not appear voluntarily for questioning.

Hermilo Ocampo, one of the owners, denied any blame, saying the disco was issued a fire safety certificate by the Bureau of Fire Protection.

The fire destroyed what was to have been a joyous celebration of the end of the school year. The Ozone Disco Pub was popular among college students, and several graduation parties were going on when the fire began.

"We went to celebrate the last day of school," said Susan Capusan, 17. "We were lucky to be seated near the exit."

"Suddenly the lights went out. I thought it was a gimmick but then suddenly somebody shouted 'Fire.' All I can remember is that there was pandemonium."

# Year after Japan subway attack, several key suspects still at large

TOKYO (AP) Their photos hang from just about every police station, post office and public billboard in the country. Strings of electric lanterns bear their likeness, and police have sought help overseas to track them down.

Still, four key suspects in the nerve gas attack on Tokyo's subways that killed a dozen commuters a year ago today have yet to be found.

"Every day before going to work, we check out the train stations just in case," said a Tokyo police officer who, like several colleagues interviewed, demanded anonymity. "The whole force is on the lookout."

The fugitives three men and one woman are suspected of having played central roles in the subway attack, the deadliest in a string of crimes linked to the Aum Shinri Kyo, or Supreme Truth, cult.

One of those crimes was the near-fatal shooting of Japan's top police official 10 days after the subway attack. The gunman never has been identified, and is suspected to be at large as well.

The charges against the four subway-gassing fugitives vary from harboring criminals to murder or attempted murder. Three more Aum members are sought for allegedly trying to release poison gas in a failed assault on Tokyo's busiest train station last May.

Police believe all seven may have helped carry out at least some of other crimes blamed on the cult, including a 1994 nerve gas attack north of Tokyo that killed seven people.

Hoping to widen their net, police have put up tens of thousands of wanted posters around the country.

# Mandela wins divorce from Winnie

JOHANNESBURG (Reuter) - Nelson Mandela was granted a divorce yesterday from his tempestuous wife Winnie after a hearing in which the aging South African president had to reveal his personal sorrow from the witness stand.

"I grant a decree of divorce between the parties," Judge Frikkie Eloff said after two days of evidence that included charges that Winnie had cuckolded the 77-year-old liberation movement leader.

"The position appears to be clear that on the evidence, that was not challenged, the plaintiff is entitled to a divorce. His claim is unanswerable and he is entitled to the relief he seeks," the judge said.

The Mandelas are due to return to court today to discuss Mrs. Mandela's claim for half of her husband's assets, which one newspaper estimated at \$10 million. The judge gave his ruling min-

utes after Mrs. Mandela sacked her advocate, Ismail Semanya, and asked for a last-minute postponement to hire a new one.

Eloff rejected her request and told her she could either give evidence herself or call witnesses. Mrs. Mandela did neither.

She left the court immediately after the ruling without looking up. An expressionless President Mandela gravely shook hands with lawyers and court officials before leaving.

Mandela began proceedings to end his 38-year marriage to Winnie, 61, after separating from her in 1992 following his release from jail where he had spent 27 years for his fight against white rule.

On Monday, the first day of the contested divorce, President Mandela's advocate Wim Trengove told the court:

"Since the breakdown of the marriage... the plaintiff has suffered considerable public embar-

assment as a result of the brazen public conduct and infidelity of the defendant."

Mandela said on Monday he had been forced to reveal the unhappy details of Winnie's behavior and identified a lawyer from his African National Congress as his wife's lover at the time of their separation.

Yesterday, Mandela begged Semanya not to force him to disclose further painful details under cross examination.

"I appeal to you not to put any questions to me which may compel me to dent the image of the defendant and bring a great deal of pain to our children and grandchildren," he said.

"I am not keen to wash our dirty linen in public."

Mandela told the court he had reluctantly asked his and Winnie's two adult daughters, Zindzi and Zenani, to reason with his wife to end their marriage in a dignified way.

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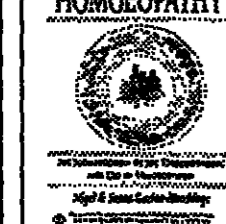
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# Clergy debates the politics of Islam

**S**EVENTEEN years into Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution, widespread corruption, economic mismanagement and abuses of power have provoked an unprecedented debate within Iran's clergy over the merits of mixing Islam and politics.

Seized by the deepening fear that Islam is becoming tainted in the eyes of the people, several leading ayatollahs have stepped up criticism of the regime and called for an end to the absolute rule of Islam over the people on which the current regime is based.

Of these, the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, acknowledged to be among the country's leading spiritual figures who has a strong grass-roots following among radicals, remains the greatest thorn in the side of the regime.

From his seminary in Qom, where he has been under virtual house arrest for years, Montazeri designated Khomeini's successor, before falling out with him, allegedly over which of them had stronger religious credentials - has openly accused President Ali Akbar Rafsanjani and his government of moral and material corruption.

**AMBERIN ZAMAN  
TEHERAN**

The religious debate was further fueled by Abdolkarim Soroush, a prominent Islamic thinker and university lecturer, whose works highlight contradictions in the Islamic constitution, which does not make clear whether the republic draws its legitimacy from the people or God.

Soroush has been obliquely hinting at a need to reform the system so that Khomeini's successor as spiritual leader, Hojatoleslam Ali Khamenei, could relinquish his quasi-political status in favor of a purely constitutional role, and allow secular politicians to run the country.

Not surprisingly, Soroush has roused the ire of key clerical figures who feel threatened by his views. They include Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, a frequent speaker at Friday prayers in Tehran and a member of the influential Council of Constitutional Guardians. He has denounced Soroush as a traitor who has been sowing discord when internal unity is needed to confront the "Great Satan," the US.

For the clergy, far more than Islam's reputation is at stake. Some 70,000 clerics rely on voluntary religious taxes for their survival and clout - a complex system which, unlike in other Islamic countries, has enabled the Shi'a clergy to exert a political role.

"Now the people have to watch the mullahs ride around in flashy Mercedes, while they live off just tea and bread," said a prominent Tehran economist, who had good cause to ask not to be named.

An Iranian writer, Abbas Maarufi, was sentenced last month to 20 lashes and six months in jail and banned from writing for two years over works he wrote denouncing government corruption.

In an apparent bid to staunch the rising chorus of dissent, the government recently ordered the hanging of a businessman convicted of embezzling \$22 million from a local bank. Others involved, including Morteza Rafiqdost, a brother of the powerful head of the Foundation for the Deprived and War Disabled - who is himself under investigation for fraud - are in jail. (The Daily Telegraph)



Iraqis display their goods at a street bazaar in the center of Amman yesterday. Jordan's Interior Ministry will begin implementing new measures concerning Iraqi nationals residing in Jordan, estimated at approximately 150,000. (Reuters)

# Sudanese press forthright in criticizing government

**K**HARTOUM'S independent newspapers are pushing the margins of freedom to the brink of subversion in totalitarian Islamic Sudan.

Day after day, and especially in campaigning for this month's presidential and parliamentary elections, writers have challenged the very legitimacy of the government and pulled to shreds its handling of foreign and domestic policies.

With a frankness rare in the Arab press, they have granted extensive coverage to views completely at variance with those of Islamist leaders trying to mobilize the Sudanese public behind what they claim is a new vision of society.

Even the two newspapers which are nominally pro-government have not shied from issues, sweeping large doses of official propaganda with spoilsful of alternative opinion.

The government newspaper *Al-Sudan al-Hadith*, for example, in vox-populi articles on the elections, gave space to people who thought the whole exercise was a waste of time and all the candidates were unfit for office.

This reality might come as a surprise to the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Sudan, whose report for 1995 paints a bleak picture of press freedom in the country.

"There's plenty of freedom. Look at this article - it's by a communist lawyer who's been in and out of detention and it's hard-hitting," said Ahmad al-Bijal al-

Tayyeb, the dynamic editor of the best-selling political daily, *Akhbar al-Youm*.

The article, typical of the material lapped up by the highly politicized Sudanese middle classes, undermines in careful, measured prose the very foundations of the political system on which the electoral process is based.

"I get angry phone calls from people tied to the government. They are based on dialogue, not on diktat. Sometimes they tell me not to publish something but I go ahead anyway," Tayyeb said. "The degree of freedom is less than it should be but it's much better than nothing."

"Sudan is much better in this respect than its Arab neighbors. [Opposition leader] Sadeq al-Mahdi would agree," said Mohammed Zakaria, head of the news department at *Al-Rai al-Akhar*, an independent paper which celebrated its first anniversary on March 12. Like Sudan's big political parties, which have risen from the ashes of each successive military dictatorship, the Sudanese urge to publish has proved difficult to suppress.

"It's the nature of the people. Don't forget that they have staged two successful uprisings in less than half a century, which is a pretty good record," said Zakaria.

The first years after the military coup of 1989 were indeed lean years for the newspapers but a new press law in 1993 opened the gates to some independent and

aggressive reporting. Tayyeb and 11 other investors gathered together, raised the minimum capital of 15 million pounds (now about NIS 45,000), applied for a license and began publishing in August 1994.

The newspaper now sells 30,000 copies a day and Tayyeb reckons that at least 10 people read each copy. The numbers are tiny but distribution to most places is impossible, literacy is low and under the government's free-market policies newspapers are expensive at 200 pounds (about 60 agorot) a copy.

*Akhbar al-Youm* articles have told President Omar Hassan al-Bashir that he is too dependent on the Moslem Brotherhood and that he must broaden his power base. In foreign policy, it has told him he is unwise to antagonize Egypt.

The picture is by no means all rosy. The authorities made the independent paper *Al-Sudan al-Dawliya* close in 1993 on the grounds that some reports were against the country's interest.

*Al-Rai al-Akhar* was suspended for two weeks on a technicality: that it failed to tell the authorities that someone was standing in for the editor, who was abroad. "Maybe they had reasons of which we are not aware," said Zakaria.

"We do practice self-censorship sometimes. But the Sudanese yearn for freedom and to express their opinions. Anyone who rules Sudan soon finds that out." (Reuters)

# Syria loses ground in Turkey's favor

**B**y absenting itself from the Sharm e-Sheikh anti-terrorism summit, Syria crossed several invisible red lines.

Though it may not be too late for President Hafez Assad to backtrack, his inaction may return the regime to a state of isolation. Unlike the past, the seclusion will have not only political significance but military implications too.

Up until the Gulf war, most Arab states had distanced themselves from Syria, Iran's only Arab ally; the rest of the Arab world had in general taken Iraq's side in the Iran-Iraq war. In conquering Hussein's major financial backers in his eight-year war against Iran, Saddam betrayed his former Arab allies and eased the way for Assad to be accepted again among Arab ranks.

Assad's readiness to join the war coalition against Saddam strengthened his ties with the US. All this is now changing. Iran is again cast in

**ANALYSIS  
PINHAS INBARI**

the role of bad guy, sponsoring subversion not only in Israel but in many pro-American Arab countries too, such as in Egypt and the Gulf.

It has been noted before that Syria has been conducting policies which many observers believe are inimical to its own interests, mainly because of the rigid mentality of its leadership.

Objectively, Syria's main national interest should be focused on its borders with Turkey and Iraq. Any Syrian government behaving logically would avoid being clamped in a double front - Israel to the fore, Turkey to the rear. Syria opted to stick with its ally Iran even as Washington began to mobilize world opinion against Tehran.

If Assad insists in pursuing this policy, an Israel-Turkey alliance may develop to replace the Israel-Syria track of the Middle East peace

process. It will then be almost impossible for Damascus to resist Turkey's completion of the vast water projects in Anatolia which will deprive Syria of huge quantities of Euphrates river water. Regional economic programs once earmarked for Syria will be diverted to joint Israeli-Turkish enterprises.

Assad still has every opportunity to cut his ties with the mullahs.

It will be intriguing to wait for the outcome of elections in Israel to gauge his reaction to whatever new realities emerge in Israel. But already he has lost points to Turkey. President Suleiman Demirel was the most outspoken supporter of Israel's ideas on confronting terrorism expounded at the Sharm e-Sheikh summit.

This is the price Assad paid for his absence. This contradictory approach to the "Syria track" may now soon become visible on the ground.

# Legality of warrant for Iranian minister doubted

**T**HE arrest warrant issued by Germany for Iran's intelligence chief is legally questionable, the chairman of parliament's interior affairs committee has said.

The chairman, Wilfried Penner, said members of foreign govern-

ments enjoy extraterritorial immunity and therefore cannot be prosecuted.

In a highly unusual move, the Federal Prosecutor's Office last week issued an arrest warrant for Ali Fallahian, Iran's minister of intelligence, because of the alleged

involvement of his agents in a political assassination in Berlin.

Penner, a member of the opposition Social Democrats, said Fallahian could not be arrested on German soil if he had been invited to the country by the government.

Because of the questionable legal basis for the arrest warrant, Penner said he was surprised by its timing.

But he nevertheless welcomed the warrant, saying, "Terrorist acts in the name of or with the tolerance of a foreign government" cannot be allowed. (AP)

# Lebanese acquittal of terrorists astonishes US

**T**HE US this week expressed astonishment at the acquittal of two Palestinians tried for involvement in the 1976 murder of US ambassador Francis Meloy, an embassy counselor and their Lebanese driver.

Meloy and economic counselor Robert Waring, who were found dead hours after being seized at a militia checkpoint in Beirut, were among the first of many US victims of Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

"The US embassy received with astonishment and deep disappointment the final decision of the court in the case of the kidnap and murder of the former US ambassador Francis Meloy, embassy economic counselor Robert Waring and Lebanese driver Mohammed Moghrabi," the embassy said in an official statement.

"We had hoped it would be an occasion to show that law was once again ruling in Lebanon and that Lebanon is no longer a place where terrorists seek refuge," the statement added.

The Court of Cassation, Lebanon's top appeals court, acquitted two former terrorists of involvement in the case of a third who is still on the run. The three are former members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

Meloy, Waring and their driver were stopped at a PELP checkpoint and driven off by their captors. Their bodies were found hours later on a beach in Moslem west Beirut. (Reuters)

# GCC criticizes Iraq, Iran; praises peace

**T**HE Gulf Cooperation Council states this week criticized Iraq and Iran and praised Middle East peace efforts.

A statement issued after a regular foreign ministers' session of the six-nation GCC referred to the "suspicious behavior of the Iraqi regime on eliminating its weapons of mass destruction."

The GCC members - Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain - called on the international community to "continue the pressure" until Iraq complies with UN resolutions.

On Iran, another country the GCC views with suspicion, the statement expressed concern over Tehran's recent "consolidation" of its occupation of three strategic southern Gulf islands claimed by the United Arab Emirates.

**NEWS AGENCIES  
RIYADH**

Iran earlier this month opened an airport on the island of Abu Musa. The other two disputed islands are Greater and Lesser Tunbs. All three dominate the approaches to the Strait of Hormuz, the mouth of the Gulf.

The GCC called on Iran to accept arbitration by the International Court of Justice to settle the dispute.

The GCC meeting also praised Middle East peace efforts and called on the US and Russia, cosponsors of the Madrid peace conference, to convene a follow-up meeting to "evaluate the results of the process."

The statement called on Israel to lift the closure of the Palestinian

autonomous territories, but it condemned terrorism.

The ministers called for intensified efforts to remove obstacles hindering progress in Israeli-Syrian peace negotiations and expressed hope for movement on the Lebanese-Syrian track.

In Bahrain, the US Embassy meanwhile issued a new security alert on political violence after two bomb attacks on restaurants.

"Incidents and bombings in public places continue, including two firebomb attacks on public restaurants. These attacks were intended to kill Asians and Westerners," callers to the embassy's security hotline were told.

"The risk to personal safety, therefore, has increased," said the message. "However, there are no reports of specific threats to Americans."

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# 'The loneliest Jew in America' defends himself

**Y**EHUDA Levin has been called "the loneliest Jew in America." He doesn't dispute it.

As one of four national co-chairmen of the Buchanan for President campaign, the little-known and underemployed 41-year-old Orthodox rabbi is one of very few Jews willing to publicly support the belligerent political commentator.

Levin admits that his embrace of Buchanan, whom many prominent Jews consider to be antisemitic, hasn't won him many friends in the Orthodox Jewish community of Brooklyn, New York, where he lives. In fact, it has made him an outcast and an oddity.

"Right now, I wouldn't win any popularity contests," he says.

"An overwhelming number of people in my community just don't understand Buchanan. They see him as a Nazi." But there is a logic to Levin's support for Buchanan, although it requires the rabbi to set aside the candidate's often-hostile, frequently skeptical comments about Jews, Israel and the Holocaust.

Levin says that Buchanan's opposition to abortion, pornography and full civil rights for gays and lesbians - views Levin shares - far outweighs any misgivings he might have about Buchanan's views of Jews and Israel. And he dismisses the distaste for Buchanan among his fellow Jews as a product of both knee-jerk political liberalism and a hypersensitivity to perceived slights.

Sure, Levin says, Buchanan has at times been guilty of "insensitivity" to Jewish opinion, such as when he complained of Jewish "wallowing in the atrocities of a dead regime," referring to the Holocaust. Buchanan's description of Hitler as "an individual of great courage, a soldier's soldier" was also perhaps excessively provocative, Levin avows.

But none of that is evidence of hatred toward Jews, Levin says. Rather, it's just Buchanan's way of being heard above "the clamor and din of the Beltway

## One of Pat Buchanan's national co-chairmen, Yehuda Levin, is not winning any popularity contests among America's Jews

crowd." "He's an equal-opportunity insulter," Levin proceeds. "He's a pugnacious Roman Catholic, Latin mass guy, a traditionalist. His faith doesn't change with the times. He's used to brawling intellectual give-and-take, no holds barred, no prisoners taken."

"He still hasn't realized the difference between writing a column and running for president. But this does not an antisemite make."

Levin says his attraction to Buchanan and his ideas rises naturally from his conservative faith and tradition. He was raised in a haredi family in Brooklyn and Queens and was educated and ordained at an Orthodox yeshiva in Brooklyn.

He is married to a daughter of Holocaust survivors, who, Levin says, finds his role in the Buchanan campaign a bit perplexing. She does not participate in her husband's political activities; she has her hands full raising their eight children.

Levin briefly held a pulpit at the small Beth Jacob Synagogue in Queens in the late 1980s and still officiates at High Holy Day services as an itinerant rabbi.

He also serves as unofficial spokesman for Jews for Morality, a conservative group that opposes abortion and promotes what Levin calls "traditional values from a Jewish perspective." He can give no estimate of the group's size and says it has no office or telephone.

But it is his political, rather than his religious, activities that

have won him some notoriety.

In 1984, he changed his political affiliation from Democrat to Republican to run against Rep. Stephen Solarz, the Democratic incumbent, winning a surprising 35 percent of the vote. The next year, running as the candidate of New York's Right-to-Life Party, he challenged Democratic Mayor Ed Koch but earned only an asterisk in the political record books.

His relationship ("if you want to call it that," Levin says) with Buchanan dates to the fall of 1992, when he met the firebrand columnist at a GOP gathering in New Jersey and told him that the two agreed on "a whole smorgasbord of social issues." In spring 1995, Buchanan's sister and campaign manager, Angela "Bay" Buchanan, called Levin and asked if he'd be willing to serve as a national co-chairman of the campaign.

"When I accepted that, I had no illusions that Mr. Buchanan would be the next president or even win the nomination," Levin says. "I did this and I'm doing this because he champions a lot of issues that I believe he ought to receive our support for."

Levin says he's given up much hope of reaching his fellow Jews.

His goal, for now, is to convince Christian conservatives that Buchanan has at least some support among Jews.

"I'm telling them that there are, like me, a small group of people who appreciate that while he doesn't have the best bedside manner, to put it mildly, he's not a Jew-hater."

Most mainstream Jewish leaders, however, are not convinced. Rabbi Marvin Hier, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, said that Buchanan has had numerous opportunities to explain or apologize for his remarks and has never taken them.

Hier added that Levin would have a hard time finding enough Jewish supporters of Buchanan to put together a minyan. "It's an extremely small group he represents. Despite the best efforts of Rabbi Levin to enlarge it, I think he would be lucky if he found a minyan." (Los Angeles Times)

## PARENTING

RUTH MASON

**H**OW was school? "Fine." "What did you do?" "Nothing." How can I find out something about what goes on during my children's day?

Marcia Levine Shibro, child and adult psychologist, and chief psychologist at Beit Hayedot, says: "Children often experience our questioning as a modern revival of the Spanish Inquisition. As a result, parents often feel cast in the role of intrusive torturers. We then feel tortured - excluded and confused about who's the 'bad guy' in this scenario. We may then respond with anger, increased pressure on the child to answer, or with hurt withdrawal. While these are natural responses, they do nothing to loosen our children's tongues."

Here are some suggestions for avoiding the question/blank-wall stalemate and finding out about our children's lives.

Provide a model for talking aloud about one's own experience.

Describe your own day (avoid being excruciatingly detailed, as they will tune out). What you think worth mentioning, becomes "worth-mentioning" material in your child's life. Particularly as young children detest answering questions, you've opened up a reciprocal exchange - a conversation rather than a perceived grilling.

Often parental timing is off. Parents want to put questions when it suits them (in the car on the way home from school with three other children present, or just as *Baywatch* is starting) and not necessarily when children want to talk. You may discover that you are not available to listen when your child spontaneously wants to tell (particularly as their memories may be jogged much more readily by a similar event, a story or a situation on TV rather than a direct question).

True, they are often burning to talk when you have the phone under your chin, a burnt pan in one hand and a screaming baby in the other. This doesn't mean you should drop everything at that moment, but do try to be attuned to their timing.

Children often feel chatty and in touch with their experiences as they lie in bed before sleeping. Many parents gave the bath, read the book and want their own time now. If your child is the type who opens up at night, you may want to plan some unstructured talk time around the bedtime ritual.

WE often dampen our child's enthusiasm for telling if we have ulterior motives for our questions. Check with yourself why you are asking the question. What do you want to know? Do you want to discover if Adam behaved well, or

participated in class; if the teacher is okay?

If you need to discover specific information, say so, directly. If you really want to hear what is going on with your child's life, listen. Children often tell stories in ways to which we are not accustomed. Often they don't get to the point as we know it, but try to listen until the end, uncritically.

Be particularly aware of your responses to the children's answers and to their spontaneous comments. Are you using their talk as a springboard for moralizing and educating? Do you interperse their talk with, "Blow your nose" or "Why are your pants torn again?"

Responses like "I told you not to" or "Why do you let him do that?" are conversation stoppers. I have found open-ended statements useful: "I'd love to hear



about your day." "Maybe you'd like to tell me something about your day." Or, more guided, "I wonder if anything interesting (good, bad) happened today." "Did you hear (see, think, learn) anything different that you think I'd like to hear about?" You may try the "prompt" or memory jog to get them started: "I saw Dana going into your kindergarten today." Or "Daniel has a black eye." Or "You haven't mentioned Tanach in weeks." Most often, children like to talk while engaged in other activities with you like cooking, sewing, or playing on the computer together. Private time doing something together is often the best time to really hear your children.

# Bogota mayor gets married in a den of non-political lions

**I**F politics is a den of lions, why shouldn't a politician get married in the midst of seven huge, ferocious carnivores?

It would have to be a most unconventional politician, of course.

Bogota's philosopher-mayor and his betrothed tied the knot with seven Bengal tigers perched around them in the middle of a circus tent.

For a country politically paralyzed by President Ernesto Samper's refusal to resign despite mounting evidence that his 1994 campaign was generously funded by cocaine lords, the recent wedding was a welcome diversion.

Antanas Mockus and Adriana Cordoba began with a pachydermic entrance, riding into the big top on an elephant, their matrimonial wear sewn of the same burlap Colombians use to ship their coffee.

She carried a simple bouquet, he a jester's head on a stick. Cordoba, a graduate student in urban planning, exuded joy in her floor-length burlap gown, with a white-silk scarf tied across her forehead and flowing down her back. The bearded

Mockus wore a burlap sports jacket, a tie, khaki slacks and black sandals.

"He's divine. I adore him," said one admirer in attendance. "He is so absolutely honest."

The 300 "guests" each paid \$40 into a fund the newlyweds created for abused children.

An even larger crowd - mostly people of meager means - stood outside the tent, hoping to catch a glimpse of the couple.

Immensely popular with all but the rich, Mockus is more than just an anomaly in a country where politics has been polluted by drug money and people have come to expect little from government.

The son of Lithuanian immigrants won the election for mayor by a landslide in 1994 on a tiny budget. His campaign consisted largely of riding around Bogota on his bicycle, talking to people.

His only campaign promise: to raise taxes for those who could afford it. Mockus, 43, might never have gotten into politics had he not dropped his pants in public. Flashing his naked rear at an auditorium full of students because they weren't paying

attention cost him his job as rector of the National University.

"He's a real curiosity," said a policewoman on duty at the ceremony.

Mockus attacks problems with novel solutions - from enlisting teenage mimes to ridiculing jaywalkers to distributing plastic thumbs-down cards that can be flashed instead of pistols at offensive drivers.

And a favorite punishment for minor legal violations - make the offender fill potholes, sweep sidewalks or wash windows of public buildings.

The wedding ceremony began after the tigers jumped through flaming hoops - one suffering a third-degree thigh burn.

The bride and groom then followed the notary who married them into the cage. Sitting at a folding table, the soon-to-be-Mockuses looked somewhat nervous eyeing the tigers as the notary performing the civil ceremony waxed philosophical on the meaning of marriage.

But there was no hesitation and plenty of passion in the six-second kiss that followed. On a lion tamer's cue, one of the tigers roared. (AP)

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

## Russian inflation falls below 100%

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian year-on-year inflation fell to 89 percent in February, from 104% in January, making it the lowest rate since economic reforms began in January 1992, the State Statistics Committee said yesterday.

It was the first time that Russia has recorded double-digit year-on-year inflation.

The freeing of prices drove the annual figure as high as 2,000% in 1992 and rates have stayed stubbornly high, despite tight monetary policies in recent years.

Some Russian economists blame monopolist producers for the high inflation rates. Communist Party leaders, remembering the low official inflation

rates of Soviet days, see price controls and subsidies as a way to stop the rot.

But the government, viewing low inflation as President Boris Yeltsin's best recipe for success in June's presidential election, has promised to bring monthly rates down to 1% this year.

"Yeltsin's only viable election program is one of low inflation," Brunswick brokerage said. "While some additional spending is likely, Yeltsin will not disregard opinion polls showing that inflation is the top concern for the majority of Russia's population."

February's month-on-month rate of 2.8% was also the lowest rate since reforms began.

## Tadiran's revenues pass \$1 billion mark

TADIRAN yesterday announced its earnings last year were \$1.048 billion, the first time ever its annual revenues surpassed \$1b.

The company's net profits, however, decreased 30 percent to \$27.57 million from \$39.405m.

Revenues grew 13% from \$862.89m., while earnings per share fell to \$1.41 from \$2.01.

Board Chairman Benny Gaon noted that reorganization had turned the telecommunications segment into an attractive partner for "significant strategic partnerships," and Tadiran is in early negotiations with several concerns.

Meanwhile, Tadiran Telecommunications is readying for an \$80m. share offering on Wall Street, with March 28 set as the pricing date.

Full-year results included a one-

time expense of \$18.7m.

Earnings per share last year included extraordinary benefits of \$0.28 per share from unrealized gains in marketable securities and \$0.23 per share from one-time tax benefits.

Fourth quarter net profits went up 114% to \$10.9m. from \$5.12m. Revenues rose to \$283.11m. from \$252.23m., while earnings per share went up to \$0.56 from \$0.26.

Annual profit margins fell to 23.6% from 26.9%.

CEO Israel Zamir said gross margins "continued to be negatively impacted by the gap between the rate of inflation and the shekel-dollar exchange rate, and by the one-time charges recorded."

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

**Disabled protest in front of the Knesset:** Members of the disabled workers' union staged a strike in front of the Knesset to protest the inequality between the conditions of those injured in war and terrorist attacks and those injured in work accidents. They will continue the strike until their demands are met, union head Daron Yehuda said.

Following a protest by the 20,000-member union two years ago, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat allocated NIS 10 million, but this solved marginal problems plaguing a small group, Yehuda said, adding that recent protests have yielded nothing.

**About 100 travel agents specializing in incentive tours** are to participate in a conference this weekend organized by the newly established Elit Forum, which was formed by El Al, Arkia, the Tourism Ministry, and a group of hotels and tour organizers.

The participating hotels are the Princess, Neptune, Radisson Mariah Plaza, Paradise Red Sea, Isrotel King Solomon, Isrotel Royal Beach, Dan Eilat, and Ambassador. The member agencies include Amiel Tours, Eshet International, Kenes, Yesharim, Omega, Ophir Tours, Orta, Peltours, and Unitours.

**Negotiators for General Motors and the United Auto Workers union** took their first break yesterday after almost two days of non-stop talks to end a strike that has virtually shut down the giant car-maker. Negotiators took a break after meeting for nearly 40 hours since Sunday, said James Hagedorn, a spokesman for GM's Delphi Chassis unit in Dayton, Ohio. Hagedorn would not comment on whether the negotiators were closer to ending the strike, which has led to the shutdown of all GM's assembly plants.

## Koor Tourism buys 51% of Altiv, Histour

HAIM SHAPIRO

KOOR Tourism Enterprises yesterday signed an agreement with Elbit to acquire 51 percent of the Histour and Altiv travel companies.

The agreement, which marks considerable expansion for Koor in the tourism field, was signed by Koor Tourism director Gil Leidner and Elbit director Emmanuel Gil.

The remaining 49% of the shares are to be held by both Elbit and Tius of the Bank Hapalim group.

As part of the agreement, Koor is to invest \$2.5 million, of which \$1.8m. will be paid immediately.

Last year, Histour - which includes outgoing tourism, vacation packages, charters and internal tourism - had a turnover of \$47m.

Altiv specializes primarily in business travel.

Koor Tourism is already involved in hotel ownership and management in the Paradise chain.

It also owns half the Eurodollar car rental firm and holds an 18% interest in Arkia.



The first planeload of Thai workers arrives at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday. The group of 238 was part of the 3,500 additional foreign agricultural workers approved by the cabinet last week following the wave of suicide bombings.

## FIBI suffers 4.8% decrease in annual net earnings

THE First International Bank of Israel (FIBI), a member of the Safra Bank Group, completed last year with a 4.8 percent drop in net profits to NIS 144.1m. from NIS 151.4m. in 1994.

FIBI is the first of the country's five large banks to publish its annual financial statements.

Net profits in the fourth quarter fell to NIS 36.5m. from NIS 39.4m. in the same period last year.

Annual net return on equity fell to 8.7% from 9.5% last year. The bank achieved an average annual net return on equity of 9.7% over the past five years.

The bank's board of directors decided to allocate a dividend of NIS 78.5 to the shareholders, representing a dividend yield of 4.2%.

**GALIT LIPKIS BECK**

The board decided to continue with the bank's dividend policy of distributing at least 35% of the bank's earnings during the coming three years.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, FIBI managing director Shlomo Piotrkowsky said 1994 results included NIS 35.7m. received in respect of final tax assessments for the years 1987-1990, which contributed NIS 19.5m. to net earnings.

He said net earnings would have increased by 9.3% excluding this item.

In the reported period, the banks performance was affected by a

7.9% growth in earnings from financing operations before provision for doubtful debts to NIS 657m. The growth resulted from an increased volume of financing activity, which was offset by an erosion in the aggregate financial margin.

Key factors which hindered earnings included an 11.6% rise in provisions for doubtful debts to NIS 56.1m. from NIS 50.3m.

Operating and other income, which was reduced by the continued recession in the capital markets, decreased 5.3% to NIS 335.4m. The erosion was partially offset by an increase in the bank's commission-earning activities in the areas of foreign currency, foreign trade and credit cards.

## Saudi prince, Michael Jackson in venture

DUBAI (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia's richest investor and US pop star Michael Jackson yesterday announced a multi-million dollar show business joint venture.

Billionaire Prince al-Waleed bin Talal said the business would be called Kingdom Entertainment.

The name derives from Kingdom Establishment, the prince's main investment vehicle through which he has amassed a business empire that includes banks, theme parks, telecommunications, hotels and other property throughout the world.

One of their first joint activities would be sponsoring Jackson's world "History Tour," the statement said.

It said Kingdom Entertainment planned to pursue investments and development projects in a wide range of entertainment activities - including animation, theme parks, theme restaurants, character licensing, television programming, motion pictures and multi-media.

Kingdom Entertainment expected to benefit from synergies resulting from those activities.

## Matav Cable net profits drop 35%

**RACHEL NEIMAN**

MATAV Cable Communications reported a 35.78 percent drop in annual net profits to NIS 19.78 million from NIS 27.78m.

Revenues rose to NIS 241.15m. from NIS 206.79m., while earnings per share fell to NIS 0.92 from NIS 1.28.

The drop was attributed to increased funding costs and higher tax payments.

Matav has signed a letter of intent for an initial public offering abroad.

The company is also a 10% partner in a consortium to provide international phone service. Other members include Chalcom (44%), Sprint International, Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom (together 46%).

The company has connected 68% of households to the cable infrastructure.

Jerusalem Economic Corporation posted a doubling in net profits to NIS 24.8m. from NIS 12.19m.

Revenues went up to NIS 130.1m. from NIS 113.67m., while earnings per share increased to NIS 0.56 from NIS 0.28.

JEC said net profits rose, despite a drop in one-time revenues on property sales to NIS 1.2m. from NIS 22.88m. in 1994.

Funding costs declined and revenues on rental was up to NIS 84.96m. from NIS 76.6m.

The company is primarily owned by TLC Properties and Investment, part of the Fishman group.

Subsidiaries include Mivnet Holdings (50%), Industrial Buildings (43.4%), Science Based Industry (50%), management and holdings operations.

Last year the company invested NIS 207m. in properties, of which NIS 77m. were direct JEC investments.

## 'Central bank's monetary policy harms markets'

**GALIT LIPKIS BECK**

THE Bank of Israel's monetary policy is harming the capital markets, First International Bank managing director Shlomo Piotrkowsky said at a press conference yesterday.

Piotrkowsky said the Bank of Israel's tight-money policy encouraged borrowers to take foreign currency loans instead of shekel loans.

He said 60 percent of total credit growth last year was in foreign currency.

As a result, he said, the shekel interest rate on the economy and capital market has significantly weakened.

"If the trend continues, there will be virtually no point in raising or lowering the interest on shekel credit," said Piotrkowsky. "The shekel interest rate is losing its power in directing economic activity in Israel."

According to Piotrkowsky, the business community's preference to take loans in foreign currency has led to a 40%-60% contraction in the banking sector's financial margins, to 3%-3.5% in 1995.

Piotrkowsky said last year's high interest rate hindered the performance of the capital market, adding that the recovery of the stock exchange this year is largely dependent on the lowering of the interest rate.

"The bourse has a major task in the continuation of economic growth," he said. "But high interest rates are damaging the capital market. They are reducing turnovers and prices."

Commenting on the Bank of Israel's lowering of the inflation rate last year, Piotrkowsky emphasized that although inflation fell to a record low of 8.1% from 14.5%, this success has harmed the trade deficit.

"If you take the basic inflation rate (excluding fruit and vegetable prices and housing), the inflation rate fell only 1%," he said. "The important question is whether this policy was justified."

Commenting on bank's movement to a five-day work week Piotrkowsky forecasted the expense to the banking sector will reach NIS 70 million-NIS 80m., which is less than the rest of the forecasts in the banking sector.

### FOR HOME OWNERS CAPITALIZATION CAMPAIGN

The Israel Lands Administration is launching a capitalization\* campaign for home owners who are required to pay ground rent. The campaign will allow them to capitalize their lease contract under exceptionally favorable circumstances.

\* Capitalization - discharging the sum total of future payments in a lump sum.

A personal letter with detailed explanations will be sent to all those eligible to take part in the campaign. For further information, please contact the bureau nearest to your property, as following:

**Central Region**

- 53 Rehov Hameager, 2nd floor, Tel Aviv 67217, Tel. 03-5626630, Fax. 03-5626693
- 24 Rehov Weizmann, Beit Oza, 4th floor, rooms 41/42, Netanya, Tel. 08-622678, Fax. 08-621908
- 4 Rehov Binyamin, 4th floor, Rehovot 76244, Tel. 08-9459013, Fax. 08-9459014

**Jerusalem**

- 5 Rehov Even Yisrael, 1st floor, Jerusalem 94228, Tel. 02-242177, Fax. 02-242310
- Lev Ashkelon Shopping Center, 40 Rehov Hahistadrut, 2nd floor, Ashkelon 75641, Tel. 07-713034

**Haifa**

- 72 Derech Ha'atzma'ut, 2nd floor, Haifa 33035, Tel. 04-8669407, Fax. 04-8664220
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**Southern Region**

- Rehov Hapalmach, Ornic Passage, 1st floor, Beersheba 84219, Tel. 07-234449, Fax. 07-234461

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- 112 Derech Patah Tikva, 2nd floor, Tel Aviv 67012, Tel. 03-5610131

**Northern Region**

- Kfar Magen David Adom, ground floor, Upper Nazareth 17257, Tel. 06-468882, Fax. 06-468810

**Judea and Samaria**

- Civil Administration Building, POB 43, Beit El 80631, Tel. 02-9977786, Fax. 02-9977770, Office hours: Sun. - Thur., 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Israel Lands Administration

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### ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

**Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (18.3.96)**

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.500	4.500	4.675
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.250	4.250	4.700
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.875	1.875	4.500
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.375	0.375	2.125
Yen (¥ 10 million yen)	-	-	0.625

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

**Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (19.3.96)**

Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rep. Rate
U.S. dollar	3.4547	3.5105	3.01	3.16	3.4841
German mark	2.0732	2.1057	2.05	2.14	2.0906
French franc	4.6834	4.7620	4.60	4.68	4.7268
Japanese yen (100)	2.8976	0.9161	0.59	0.63	0.9114
Dutch guilder	1.8921	1.8920	1.82	2.88	1.8907
Swiss franc	0.4560	0.4534	0.46	1.91	0.5892
Swedish krona	0.4793	0.4940	0.44	0.47	0.4958
Norwegian franc	0.6892	0.6483	0.62	0.59	0.4993
Finland mark	2.2589	2.2534	2.21	0.69	0.6975
Canadian dollar	2.3714	2.4297	2.33	2.33	2.2780
Australian dollar	0.7791	0.7917	0.70	0.80	0.7887
S. African rand	2.9472	2.9848	0.99	1.04	1.0188
Belgian franc (10)	1.9922	1.9919	1.92	1.04	2.8727
Austrian schilling (10)	1.9922	1.9919	1.92	1.04	1.9702
Jordanian dinar	1.9922	1.9919	1.92	1.04	4.4485
Egyptian pound	3.6378	3.6966	0.87	0.95	3.6729
Irish punt	4.9350	4.9130	4.75	4.89	4.8729
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4804	2.5002	2.42	2.54	2.4822

\* These rates vary according to bank. \*\* Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUM

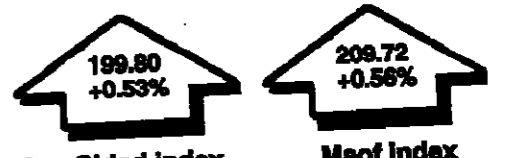
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Tadiran performance lifts TASE

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ



STOCKS rose yesterday, boosted by improved fourth-quarter profits at Tadiran, a Koor subsidiary. Tadiran, with interests in telecommunications, defense contracting, and consumer appliances, rose 3.25 after after announcing earnings doubled to \$11 million, or 56 cents a share, from \$5.1m, or 26 cents per share in the quarter in 1994.

The quarter was strong and generates good expectations toward the year's performance, said Arieh Maoz, vice president at Tel Aviv investment firm Central Securities Ltd.

Koor Industries Ltd., which owns a 66% stake in Tadiran, rose 2.25%. Koor, which produces more than 7% of the country's industrial output, was the most active share on the exchange, with NIS 4.5m. worth of shares changing hands.

The Maof index rose 0.56% to 209.72 and the Two-Sided Index went up 0.53% to 199.80. Of 992 issues trading across the exchange, three shares rose for every two that fell.

More than NIS 56m. worth of shares traded, NIS 10.8m. below this month's average trading level. The relatively low level of trading reflects a market which is "in waiting," said Maoz.

"There's tension in the market," he said. "Investors are waiting for the expiration of Maof index options contracts, due at the end of the month." (Bloomberg)

European markets pulled up by Wall St.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Shares ended higher yesterday but well below the day's best after some solid gains. Bond market stability and initial advances on Wall Street took the FTSE 100 back above the 3,700 level before profit-taking in the US dragged it off its day's best late-on.

The FTSE ended 23.4 points higher at 3,693.0, with attention focusing on a packed end of week for economic data.

FRANKFURT - The German DAX blue-chip index closed lower but rose strongly ahead. Unable to find enough impetus to break through the psychological and technically crucial 2,500-point barrier.

The index of 30 shares ended floor trade 30.10 points higher at 2,493.26 points. In post-bourse trade the index was up 12.19 at 2,484.74.

PARIS - French shares closed slightly higher after an afternoon fall wiped out earlier gains. The market, which started higher boosted by record gains on Wall Street, a higher bond market and a strong franc, lost its gains the moment Wall Street started to turn mixed.

The CAC-40 index up 2.18, or 0.11 percent, at 1,967.20. ZURICH - Swiss shares ended higher on a boost from Wall Street's strong performance and calmer bond markets, dealers said, adding that liquidity was high. Most activity was seen in the industrial sector with gains in Roche, Ciba and Nestle, while share prices among financials were partly disappointing, dealers said. The broad SPI closed up 12.94 points to 2,299.23.

TOKYO - Shares in Tokyo ended firmer, but well off their early highs, with another record close in Wall Street easing fears over higher US interest rates. Brokers said the worst was over, though the upside remained limited amid uncertainties over Japan's budget. The 225-share Nikkei average rose 157.47 points at 20,442.60.

HONG KONG - Hong Kong stocks rallied to close above the key 10,800 level, catapulted by Wall Street's huge 99-point surge overnight, players said. The blue-chip Hang Seng index surged 279.22 points to 10,880.50.

SYDNEY - The Australian share market closed firmer on good volume. Broad buying support lifted stocks across the board after a strong session on Wall Street and a merger announcement between two regional banks combined to boost market sentiment.

The All Ordinaries Index finished 21.7 points higher at 2,256.3. JOHANNESBURG - South African gold shares bounced off their lows to end only slightly weaker as sentiment and activity improved in the afternoon following a brief spike in the gold price to the \$396 an ounce level, dealers said.

Industrial shares followed suit ending a touch firmer but price increases were capped by uncertainty over Wall Street, they said. The all-share index closed off 7.3 points at 6,644.7, industrials were up 0.1 to 8,235.2 and golds finished down 13.7 to 1,738.7.

Dow Jones Index retreats after touching 5,700 mark

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average retreated on profit-taking yesterday after edging above 5,700 points for the first time on spillover buying from Monday's huge gain of nearly 100 points.

At 1 p.m. EST, the Dow was off 0.72 of a point at 5,682.88 following a brief run-up to 5,709.97, which added to the previous day's leap of 99 points that brought it to a record high of 5,683.60.

In the broader market, advancing issues led declines by a small margin on active volume of 260 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Nasdaq composite index was off 2.85 points at 1,111.57. The American Stock Exchange index was up 0.28 at 565.06. "People are taking some profit's today after a very strong day yesterday," said Michael La-Tronica, director of research at Gruntal & Co. "The term would be backing and filling."

Until the US switches its clocks for Daylight Saving Time, the Dow Jones results published in the paper will be from 3 p.m. New York time.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, Volume, % Change, Shares. Includes sections for Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, AFTERNOON, and MORNING.

Key Representative Rates

US dollar ... NIS 3.0900 -0.01%
Sterling ... NIS 4.7288 +0.03%
Mark ... NIS 2.0906 -0.37%

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Includes NYSE, NASDAQ, and other market indices.

Other stock market indexes

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Includes FTSE 100, Nikkei, and other international indices.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists various Israeli companies like Tadiran, Koor, and others.

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INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table with columns: Name, Price, Chg, Name, Price, Chg, Name, Price, Chg, Name, Price, Chg. Lists various international stocks.

NEW YORK

Table with columns: Name, Price, Chg, Name, Price, Chg, Name, Price, Chg. Lists New York stocks.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

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US COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists US commodities like oil, wheat, and soybeans.

London commodities

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists London commodities like gold, silver, and copper.

Spot market metals (US)

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists spot market metals like gold, silver, and platinum.

New York metal futures

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists New York metal futures like gold, silver, and copper.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table with columns: MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, FF. Lists currency exchange rates for various countries.





# A-G decides to drop incitement charges against four rabbis

CRIMINAL charges will not be filed against four rabbis suspected of encouraging the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin because all of the evidence against them is hearsay, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair decided.

Both police and the State Attorney's Office supported the decision. The police had investigated four rabbis - Nahum Rabinovich, Dov Lior, Eliezer Melamed, and Shmuel Dvir - in response to a few separate complaints.

Two of the complaints were from people who said they had both separately heard Dvir say he had heard Rabinovich and Lior state that they had ruled that Rabin was a *rodef*. By Jewish law, a *rodef*, or someone who wants to kill you, can legally be killed.

EVELYN GORDON

Not only did Rabinovich and Lior deny ever having given such a ruling, but they denied knowing Dvir, who in turn denied ever having made the incriminating statements. Faced with these unequivocal denials, the hearsay evidence of the complaints would not stand a chance in court, Ben-Yair said.

Another complaint revolved around a letter sent by Lior, Melamed, and Rabbi Daniel Shilo to some of the country's leading halachic authorities asking whether Rabin and other government ministers should be considered *moserim*, or people who hand another Jew over to the non-Jewish authorities. Under Jewish law, a *moser* can be put to death.

However, Ben-Yair found that the letter did not constitute incitement since it did not say that Rabin was a *moser* but requested a halachic ruling on the subject.

A third complaint charged that Rabinovich compared the Rabin government to the Nazi regime and said that mines might be planted to stop the IDF if it tried to evacuate the settlements. The remarks were made in a private conversation, which his interlocutor secretly recorded.

Ben-Yair found that this did not constitute criminal incitement because the charge applies only to statements made publicly or publicized in some fashion and not to private conversations.

He also noted that Rabinovich

told the police he has consistently opposed violence in public; this private remark simply slipped out at a moment of great emotional upheaval.

"None of this detracts from the severity of what was said and written [by the rabbis], which includes upsetting and inappropriate statements," Ben-Yair's assistant, Noam Solberg, concluded in a letter to the police explaining the decision. "There is, indeed, room for the appropriate soul-searching."

"However, it is not possible to base a criminal indictment solely on hearsay," he said. "And, as will be remembered, some of the hearsay [regarding people who allegedly supported the murder] has caused unnecessary damage."

## No strike today; pension negotiations continue

UNION representatives continued to negotiate with the Treasury last night over their demands for changes in the government's pension plan, to ensure the pension rights of more than 600,000 workers.

The large unions called off the strike scheduled for today, in the hope that an agreement over 22 amendments which they present

ed to the Treasury would be accepted during the night.

The unions' action committee is to meet this morning to decide on its next steps, according to the progress made in the negotiations.

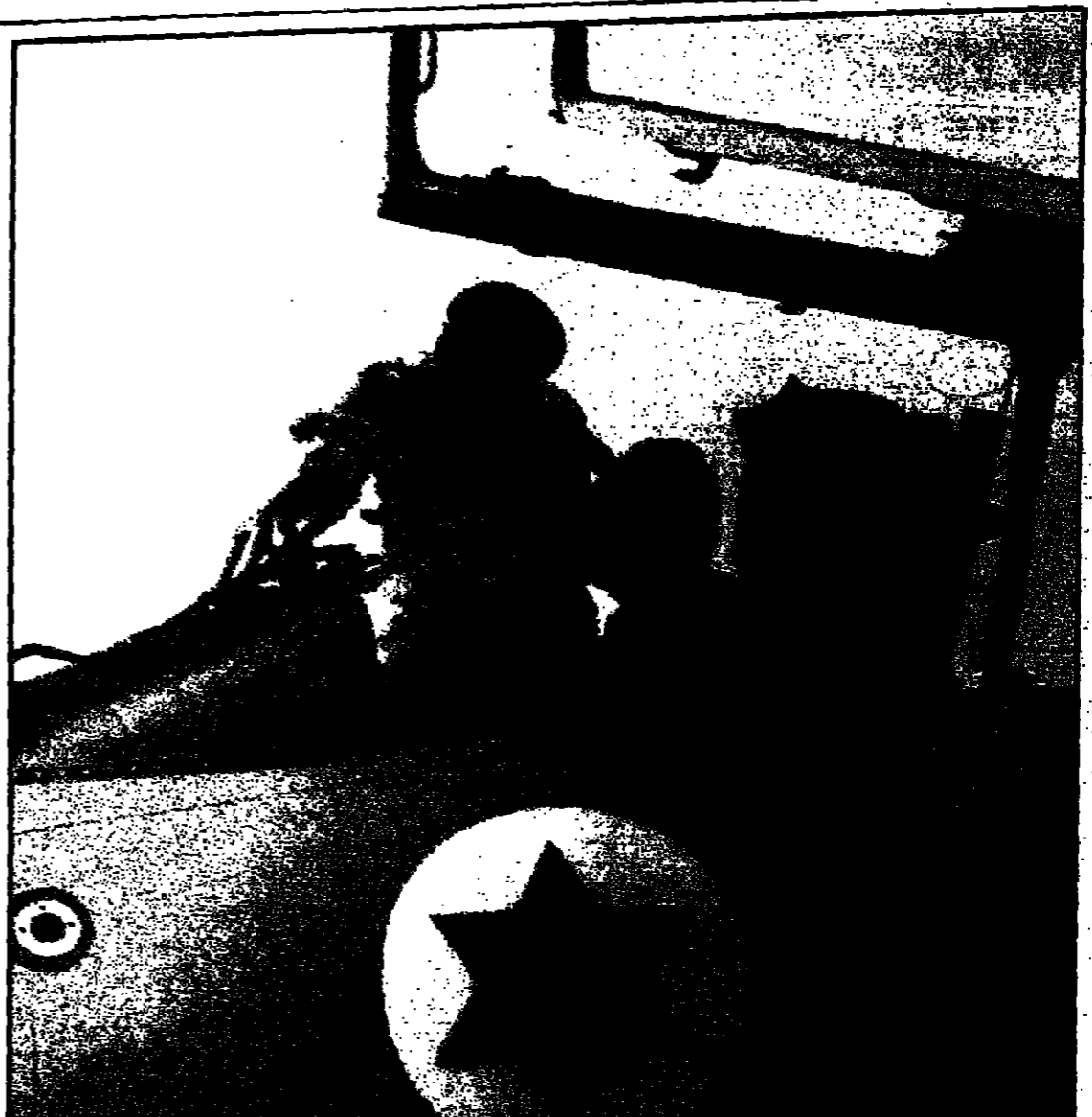
Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz said most of the obstacles

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

had been overcome and a new pension plan is expected to be signed today.

If the pension agreement is signed today, Peretz said, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat will present it to the cabinet for approval on Sunday, or at the next cabinet session.

The unions' action committee blasted the Histadrut's announcements yesterday afternoon that an agreement on the pension plan was reached, before the Treasury had given its reply to several of the unions' demands. "The Histadrut has lost all credibility with its disinformation and false statements," a union spokesperson said.



Prime Minister and Defense Minister Shimon Peres is shown in an F-15 by OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Herzl Bodinger at Tel Nof Air Base yesterday.

## Peres pays 'reassuring' visit to air force

PRIME Minister and Defense Minister Shimon Peres visited an air base yesterday, climbing inside the cockpit of an F-15 and examining anti-tank missiles strapped to an Apache attack helicopter.

"I saw things I'm sure will warm the heart of every citizen in the State of Israel," Peres said after a three-hour tour of the Tel Nof air base. "The IAF has jumped a qualitative step. Some of its weapons systems are the most sophisticated in the world."

Peres, who has come under fire

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

for not appointing a full-time defense minister following the recent suicide bombings, added that a number of the home-grown avionics and weapons gave Israel an "additional and significant capability."

Peres landed at the air base in central Israel in a Black Hawk helicopter and was greeted by Chief of Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and the air force's top command. He reviewed an honor guard amid the roar of F-

15s and Phantoms performing touch-and-go landings nearby.

Outgoing OC Maj-Gen. Herzl Bodinger then led Peres through the base for a briefing on the force.

Peres ended his visit with a close-up look at the new Apache attack helicopters Israel received from the US.

After that, Bodinger invited Peres to climb into the cockpit of an F-15 named "Shavit" which had four kill marks painted on its fuselage for Syrian planes downed in 1982.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Villager wounded by gunfire

An Israeli Arab from Ara village turned up yesterday at a Tulkarm hospital with a bullet wound in the back, and was taken in critical condition to Hillel Yo'etz Hospital in Hadera. Police are investigating whether the man, who has a criminal background, was wounded after not stopping at an army checkpoint at Baka-a-Sharkiya near Tulkarm.

#### 100,000 illegal foreign workers

A report on the presence of 100,000 illegal foreign workers in Israel has found that approximately 25,000 are from the CIS, 20,000 from Asia, 15,000 from Africa, 15,000 from Eastern Europe, 15,000 from South America, and 10,000 from Arab countries. The study, presented yesterday to Interior Minister Haim Ramon, recommended strengthening border inspection procedures, expelling illegal foreigners and punitive measures against employers.

#### Security agreement with Turkey

The Defense Ministry announced yesterday that the Israeli and Turkish armies have agreed to hold joint maneuvers and training exercises. The agreement was signed during the recent visit to Israel by the Turkish Deputy Chief of Staff Cevik Bir, the ministry said.

It was also agreed to set up a security forum for strategic dialog between Israel and Turkey.

Itim

#### Suspected forger released

A 63-year-old Tel Aviv jeweler suspected of forging stamps on gold jewelry was released on NIS 30,000 bail yesterday by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court.

Foldi Markovitz was arrested on Wednesday by the National Fraud Squad. Authenticity marks are only stamped after the Standards Institute verifies that the jewelry is in fact made of gold and determines the karat.

Raine Marcus

## Third Way choosing Knesset list

LIAT COLLINS

THE Third Way is scheduled to choose its Knesset list this afternoon during a gathering of the party council in Ramat Efal. Nearly 50 candidates are vying for a spot on the 16-member list. Party head MK Avigdor Kahalani was officially endorsed last week.

Candidates will have a chance to individually present their credo to the council before the polling booths open. The council members can rank a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 16 out of the hopefuls. The points each candidate is granted will be added up to give the final result in what has been nicknamed the Eurovision Method.

The election committee, chaired by Prof. Ariele Roth, cannot reject a candidate but may suggest the council reconsider the list if necessary.

Surveys are currently giving the Third Way between three and four seats in the next Knesset, but party members are hoping for closer to eight, based on the floating vote, disappointed supporters of David Levy's Geshet Party and young, first-time voters.

Prominent names on the candidates' list include founder members Yehuda Harel, MK Emanuel Zissman, Golan Heights regional council head Eli Malka, Uzi Keren, Avraham Ziskin, Alex Lubotsky and Ra'anan Levy.

## Hashalom train station opens with fanfare in TA

SYBIL EHRLICH

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres officially opened the new Hashalom Railway Station in Tel Aviv last night.

Peres stressed the importance of rail transportation, which will improve the quality of life in Tel Aviv and the entire country.

The standard of living has risen considerably in the last few years, leading to increased traffic on the roads which the existing infrastructure cannot handle, he said.

This government, and that of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, have invested heavily in transportation infrastructure, implementing plans from Peres's tenure as transportation minister in 1971,

Peres said. He also pointed out that more trains means fewer traffic accidents.

The modern new station - in the 21st rather than the 20th-century style - and comfortable trains will lead to increased use, and eventually railways will become the country's most popular means of transport, Peres said, noting that railways are also a solution to ecological problems.

The new station on Derech Hashalom - the Peace Road - is indeed a station on the road to peace, Peres said, adding that train will not stop until it reaches the terminus of peace.

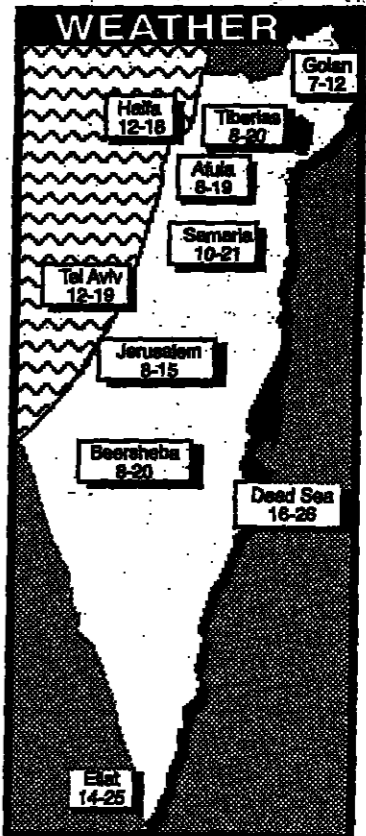
## Syria: Israel reneging on peace pledges

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - Syria's ruling coalition yesterday accused Israel of going back on its commitments to the Middle East peace process.

But the Progressive National Front, at a meeting chaired by Vice-President Zuhair Masharqa on Monday night, said a just peace remains "a strategic Syrian choice," the official Syrian news agency SANA reported.

Winning cards & numbers In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, eight of hearts, king of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

In last night's weekly Loto drawing, the winning numbers were 1, 6, 17, 29, 30, and 35. The additional number was 4.



### AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Conditions
Amsterdam	10	12	cloudy
Berlin	10	12	cloudy
Bombay	28	32	clear
Brussels	10	12	cloudy
Chicago	10	12	cloudy
Colombo	28	32	clear
Hong Kong	28	32	clear
London	10	12	cloudy
Los Angeles	10	12	cloudy
Mumbai	28	32	clear
New York	10	12	cloudy
Paris	10	12	cloudy
Seoul	10	12	cloudy
Singapore	28	32	clear
Tel Aviv	10	12	cloudy
Tokyo	10	12	cloudy
Zurich	10	12	cloudy

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**Maximum Cost of Burial Plots when Purchased in Advance**

The public is hereby advised that the Minister for Religious Affairs has recently determined the maximum cost of burial plots when purchased in advance. These rates will come into effect as soon as they are ratified by the Interior Committee of the Knesset. Anyone considering buying a burial plot should refer to the following table of charges:

Cemetery	Cost
Mount of Olives and Givat Shaul	NIS 8,000
Yarkon, Holon, Kiryat Shaul	NIS 4,500
Sdeh Yehoshua, Sdeh David	NIS 6,750
Rishon LeZion	NIS 3,500
Tiberias	NIS 3,000
Safed	NIS 3,000
Zur Shalom	NIS 3,000
Kiryat Ata	NIS 2,500
Beer Sheba	NIS 2,500
Hadera	NIS 2,500
Kfar Saba	NIS 2,500
Herzliya	NIS 2,500
Ra'anana	NIS 2,500
Nahariya	NIS 2,500
Netanya	NIS 2,500
Petach Tikva	NIS 2,500
Rehovot	NIS 2,500
Lod	NIS 2,500
Afula	NIS 2,500
Ness Ziona	NIS 2,500
Tirat Hacarmel	NIS 2,500
Yavneh	NIS 2,500
Ramla	NIS 2,500
Pardess Hanna	NIS 2,500
Ashkelon	NIS 2,500
Yehud	NIS 2,500
Beit Shemesh	NIS 2,500
Zichron Ya'akov	NIS 2,500
Hazor Haglilit	NIS 2,500
Yokne'am	NIS 2,500
Kfar Hassidim	NIS 2,500
Karmiel	NIS 2,500
Migdal Ha'emek	NIS 2,500
Nazareth Ilit	NIS 2,500
Nesher	NIS 2,500
All others	NIS 1,750

\* According to the statutes, a surcharge of 20% will be charged on the sale of a burial plot not in a person's home town.

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